

BIGHORN NATIONAL FOREST

Land and Resource Management Plan - Draft

Land Ownership Analysis Guide



The following guidelines will be used to analyze land exchange proposals presented to the Forest. Additional guidelines may be added to this list, as situations warrant, to meet conditions that have not been considered.

1. Acquire lands in wilderness or other congressionally classified areas.
2. Acquire lands or rights-of-way interests needed for protection, administration, and utilization of the National Forest, including public access, use, and enjoyment.
3. Acquire lands which provide habitat for threatened/endangered species.
4. Acquire lands which include wetlands and/or floodplains.
5. Acquire lands having historical or cultural resources, outstanding scenic values, or critical ecosystems, when these resources are threatened by change of use or when management may be enhanced by public ownership.
6. Acquire lands in mineralized areas, if not subject to future mineral patent.
7. Acquire state school lands where surface and minerals are state-owned.
8. Acquire state-owned mineral interests where the surface is National Forest System land.
9. Acquire state-owned mineral interest where the surface is non-National Forest System land, if the surface is to be acquired.
10. Acquire lands which will add significantly to available National Forest System goods and services.
11. Acquire lands where conflicting uses would impact National Forest System lands or land management.
12. Acquire lands where management efficiency will be enhanced.
13. Acquire lands with improvements suitable for National Forest System purposes.
14. Acquire lands which contain facilities that encourage access and use by elderly and/or handicapped.
15. Acquire lands that improve or maintain user access.
16. Acquire lands that would reduce the need to survey or maintain property boundary lines and corners.

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17. Acquire lands to eliminate the need for special use permits and to reduce special use administration.
18. Acquire lands that recognize rare ecological communities, for the purpose of protecting and promoting biological diversity.
19. Acquire lands that would eliminate or reduce trespass.
20. Acquire lands that would provide increased or new recreational opportunities.
21. Acquire lands to prevent imminent property development that would be incompatible with National Forest System management.
22. Acquire land surface when National Forest System owns mineral rights.
23. Acquire mineral rights when National Forest System owns surface.
24. Exchange National Forest System lands when development would not hinder the achievement of management area objectives.
25. Exchange National Forest System lands when lands to be acquired are of greater or equal value.
26. Exchange National Forest System lands that are isolated and do not contribute to National Forest programs.
27. Exchange National Forest System lands when land to be acquired provides a net increase in wild and scenic values.
28. Exchange National Forest System lands when the land to be acquired provides a net increase in riparian habitat.
29. Exchange National Forest System lands when the land to be acquired provides a net increase in municipal watersheds.
30. Exchange National Forest System lands to eliminate the need for special use permits or which will reduce special use administration.
31. Exchange National Forest System lands that will reduce the need to survey or maintain property boundaries and corners.
32. Exchange National Forest System lands that do not provide effective wildlife habitat and would not reduce wildlife habitat effectiveness.
33. Exchange National Forest System lands when land to be acquired would provide a net wildlife habitat effectiveness increase.
34. Exchange National Forest System lands when land to be acquired improves user and/or agency access.
35. Exchange National Forest System lands to develop more effective and efficient management units.

36. Exchange National Forest System lands that would serve a greater public interest under the jurisdiction of another ownership.
37. Exchange National Forest System lands when the lands are suitable for development by the private sector and the exchange is in the public interest.
38. Exchange National Forest System lands that are required for community growth.
39. Exchange National Forest System lands that are small and/or intermingled with non-federal mineral rights.
40. Exchange National Forest System lands that cannot be managed in areas with complex ownership patterns.
41. Take no action on private lands that do not meet "acquire" criteria.
42. Retain National Forest System lands that do not meet "exchange" criteria.